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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Thirty-fifth year

Letter dated 24 March 1980 from the Permanent Representative of
Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith to Your Excellency the note dated 20 March 1980 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (annex I) and the memorandum dated 20 March 1980 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on the Viet Nam-China talks (annex II), and kindly request Your Excellency to have this letter and its enclosures circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 50 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) HA VAN LAU
Permanent Representative
of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
to the United Nations

* A/35/50.

ANNEX I

N O T E

of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist
Republic of Viet Nam to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the People's Republic of China

The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam wishes to express its views about the Note 6A-80 dated March 17, 1980 and addressed by the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China to the Vietnamese Embassy in China.

After unilaterally ending the second round of the Viet Nam - China talks to increase tension in the relations between the two countries, the Chinese authorities, distorting the truth, have groundlessly held Viet Nam responsible for recent events on the Viet Nam - China border. The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam completely rejects these brazen slanderous allegations.

The fact is that the Chinese authorities, heedless of repeated denunciations and protests by the Vietnamese side, have ceaselessly stepped up provocative and sabotage activities and armed actions at many parts of Viet Nam's border on land, in the air and on the sea.

On land:

- From March 6 to 9, Chinese troops from hilltop positions fired hundreds of bursts of machine gun fire on Cam village, Binh Lieu district, Quang Ninh province, wounding four forest workers and doing great damage to houses, crops and other items of property of a lumber camp.

- On March 11, China massed a big armed force close to the border opposite to Muong Khuong district, Hoang Lien Son province, and sent across the border a platoon and dozens of militiamen who wantonly fired at houses and plundered property, causing losses in lives and property to the local population.

- On March 13 and 14, almost one hundred Chinese troops and militiamen crossed the border, attacked and plundered the property of the population in many villages of Quan Hoa district, Cao Bang province.

- Also in the first fortnight of March, Chinese troops set off dozens of forest fires, destroying more than 3,000 hectares of forest and crop fields in Phong Tho district, Lai Chau province, in Cao Loc and Loc Binh districts, Lang Son province, and Binh Lieu district, Quang Ninh province.

In the air:

- On March 8, three flights of Chinese jet fighters intruded into Muong Khuong district, Hoang Lien Son province.

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- On March 9, three other flights of Chinese jet fighters violated the airspace over Van Lang and Cao Loc districts, Lang Son province.

On the sea:

- On March 2, a Chinese war vessel (serial number 3916) intruded into Quang Nam - Da Nang province. It towed away by force the Vietnamese fishing boat No. 0076 with onboard Mr. Xuan Thai and ten other crew members, who were fishing on Vietnamese waters. Earlier, on Feb. 25 and 27, three Chinese naval vessels (serial numbers: 677, 0916 and 653) intruded into central Viet Nam, encircled and took away at gunpoint three Vietnamese fishing boats (Number: 094 NT/QN, 0329 and 0330) with 35 persons on board, who are from Tam Ky district (Quang Nam - Da Nang province) and Duc Pho district (Nghia Binh province). The Chinese forcibly extracted intelligence from these Vietnamese civilians and compelled them to say that they had violated Chinese territorial waters by fishing around the Hoang Sa archipelago, before releasing them.

- On March 11, dozens of Chinese troops, heavily armed and riding on three boats, intruded into the area west of To Chim island on the Bac Luan river, Quang Ninh province, wantonly firing at Vietnamese fishing boats on Vietnamese territorial waters.

These actions of the Chinese rulers have grossly violated Viet Nam's territorial sovereignty, threatened its security, and disrupted daily activities of the Vietnamese people on both the land and the sea. The same erroneous acts have closely followed the Chinese unilateral termination of the second round of the Viet Nam - China talks and the new Chinese war threats against the Vietnamese people, and have caused the relations between the two countries to become more tense.

The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam strongly condemns the Chinese rulers for these actions, and firmly demands that an immediate end be put to all acts of provocation and sabotage and all armed activities against the Vietnamese people. If the Chinese authorities go on with their hostile schemes and acts against Viet Nam and continue to behave arrogantly to worsen the relations between the two countries, they have to bear full responsibility for all the consequences.

Ha Noi, March 20, 1980

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ANNEX II

MEMORANDUM

by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist
Republic of Viet Nam on the Viet Nam - China talks

With Viet Nam's goodwill, the talks at Vice-Foreign Ministerial level aimed at solving the problems in the relations between Viet Nam and China have been conducted since April 18, 1979. Up till now, the talks have proceeded with 15 plenary sessions in two rounds, the first in Ha Noi and the second in Beijing. The contrasting positions and attitudes of the two parties at the talks have become increasingly apparent to world public opinion.

I. VIET NAM'S AND CHINA'S POSITIONS AT THE TALKS

A. The Vietnamese side, strictly adhering to the aims of the talks which had been agreed upon by the two sides in formal documents, put forward in the very first session of the first round in Ha Noi on April 18, 1979 a three-point proposal on the main principles and contents of a solution to the problems in the relations between Viet Nam and China, namely:

1. Urgent measures to secure peace and stability in the border areas of the two countries should include refraining from concentrating troops close to the border-line, separating the armed forces of the two sides, stopping all acts of war provocation and all forms of hostile activities, establishing a demilitarized zone and agreement on its status and setting up a two-party joint commission to supervise and control the implementation of these measures.

2. Restoration of normal relations between the two countries on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence.

3. Settlement of border and territorial problems on the basis of respect for the status quo of the historical border-line as agreed upon by the two sides' respective Party Central Committees.

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This is a correct and comprehensive proposal consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which is aimed at solving the urgent and immediate problems created by the Chinese war of aggression, preventing the resumption of war, as well as settling the fundamental and long-term problems in the relations between the two countries. This proposal expresses the Vietnamese people's will and determination to defend their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and at the same time shows their desire for an early restoration of the long-standing friendship between Viet Nam and China, thus contributing to the securing of peace and stability in Southeast Asia and peace in the world.

In the context that the two countries have just ended a war and that continued and even aggravated tension caused by the Chinese side still exists along the common border, the Vietnamese side has on many occasions proposed that the two sides immediately discuss urgent measures to secure peace and stability in the border areas, and has made many practical and constructive initiatives on this matter. In the first session of the second round of talks in Beijing on June 28, 1979, the Vietnamese side put forward a "draft agreement" according to which the two sides would undertake to refrain from espionage and reconnaissance activities in any form whatsoever on each other's territory, to refrain from all offensive activities, armed provocations, firing from one territory to the other, on land, on the sea and in the air, and to refrain from any activity endangering the security of each other. Recently, on the occasion of the traditional New Year (Tet) of the peoples of Viet Nam and China and in response to the two peoples' aspirations, sentiments, customs and practices, the chief delegate of the Vietnamese Government, on February 1, sent a Note to the chief delegate of the Chinese Government proposing that "the two sides agree to see to it that during one week from February 15 to February 21, 1980, there should be no hostile armed actions or firing in the border areas of the two countries, so that people in these border areas could enjoy a happy new year."

During the last two rounds of talks, while, reaffirming its three-point proposal and the need for immediate discussion by the two sides of urgent measures to secure peace and stability along the common border, the Vietnamese side has made clear its views on the "anti-hegemony issue" which the Chinese side has repeatedly claimed as its major concern. On this issue, the Vietnamese side has put forward the contents of its anti-hegemonism which comprise five specific points:

1. Non-expansion of territory in any form whatsoever. Immediate ending of the state of affairs in which territories are annexed to other countries.

2. Non-aggression, non-use of force or of threats to use force to "punish" any country or "to teach it a lesson".

3. Non-imposition of one's own ideologies, views and lines on other countries, non-use of any trick whatsoever, including economic aid, to compel other countries to relinquish their policy of independence and sovereignty. Non-interference in the relations between other countries.

4. Non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries through opposition organizations fostered by oneself, or by the instrumentality of one's overseas nationals, or in any other form.

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5. *Non-alliance with imperialism and other reactionary forces against peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.*

The Vietnamese view on the issue of "anti-hegemonism" is completely in accordance with the present circumstances and in response to the pressing demands being raised in the relations between China and Viet Nam and other countries in Indochina and Southeast Asia, and in line with the common struggle of the world peoples against imperialism and other reactionary forces, for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

B. The Chinese side has adopted a completely incorrect position. Since the beginning of the talks, it has, contrary to the aims of the talks which has been worked out by the two sides, resorted to every means to turn the bilateral talks aimed at solving the problems in the relations between Viet Nam and China into a forum for the discussion of third country's problems, interfered in the internal affairs of Kampuchea and Laos and in the correct and legitimate relationship between Viet Nam and Kampuchea and between Viet Nam and Laos.

The Chinese side has persistently tried to impose its eight-point position which includes very absurd demands.

Upholding its signboard of "anti-hegemonism", it has misrepresented the revolutionary situations in Kampuchea and Laos and the relationship between Viet Nam and Kampuchea and Laos. It has repeatedly clamoured about the so-called anti-hegemonist principle which it regards as the basic problem and the crux of the matter to be solved first. This, in essence, was only a plot to obstruct the talks and to disguise its hegemonist nature. It demanded that Viet Nam withdraw from Truong Sa (Spratly) islands and renounce its sovereignty over Hoang Sa (Paracel) islands-undisputable parts of Vietnamese territory. It demanded that Viet Nam cease what it called "persecution and expulsion of Hoa people" and take back those who had left for China under its instigation and pressure.

It tries to evade the reasonable and sensible three-point proposal by the Vietnamese side, persistently refuses to discuss a solution to the problems in the relations between Viet Nam and China. What should be noted is that it deliberately refuses to discuss urgent measures to secure peace and stability in the border areas of the two countries, a pressing need that the Chinese side itself had raised on six occasions in formal documents sent to the Vietnamese side before the talks started. At the same time, it unceasingly intensifies its armed actions violating Vietnamese territorial integrity, on land, in the air and on the sea, causing constant tension in the border areas between the two countries, seriously threatening the security of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, obstructing and sabotaging the Vietnamese people's normal life in the inland border and coastal areas. Still refusing to draw lessons from its ignominious defeat in the February 1979 war of aggression against Viet Nam, ignoring international law and the denunciation of world public opinion, it has increasingly made frenzied war preparations and continuously threatened to wage another war of aggression against Viet Nam.

It has also taken advantage of the talks to raise questions outside the framework of the talks and joined the imperialists' despicable coordinated campaigns of slander and sabotage against Viet Nam in the international arena.

Obviously, the Chinese side's position at the negotiating table has fully manifested its expansionism and hegemonism. It has attempted to use the talks to deceive public opinion at home and abroad and to coordinate this with other hostile actions in order to compel Viet Nam to abandon its territorial sovereignty, its line of independence, sovereignty and international solidarity, which experience has endorsed as correct. The stand of the Chinese side, together with the fact that it has frenziedly prepared for another war of aggression and frequently made armed provocations, causing tension in the border areas, on land as well as on the sea, between the two countries, has more clearly exposed the Beijing authorities' plans to oppose Viet Nam in an attempt to subdue and annex it and other Indochinese countries, paving the way for its later expansion into the rest of Southeast Asia.

II. THE NEGOTIATING ATTITUDES OF VIET NAM AND CHINA

With a desire to reach an early solution to the problems in the relations between the two countries, the Vietnamese side has spared no effort to make the talks progress. This goodwill of the Vietnamese side also has been clearly reflected in its proposal on ways to conduct the talks. After the Vietnamese side's three-point proposal and the Chinese side's eight-point proposal had been put forward, in keeping with normal working procedures, the Vietnamese side has proposed that the two sides first of all take turns to discuss point 1 in each side's proposal, and discuss point 1 in the Vietnamese three-point proposal first. But if the Chinese side wanted to discuss point 1 in its eight-point proposal first, the Vietnamese side would agree to this. The Chinese side has rejected that reasonable and sensible proposal but failed to suggest any procedures for discussion. In order to keep the talks from coming to an impasse, the Vietnamese side has again shown its goodwill by proposing that the two sides take turns to raise problems of its concern for an exchange of views in each session. This is a practical and fair proposal taking into consideration the positions of both sides and preventing one side from imposing its views on the other. But the Chinese side has persistently refused to accept it. Right from the beginning of the talks till now, it has persistently tried to impose upon Viet Nam its eight-point stand without making any allowance for the three-point proposal of the Vietnamese side. It has even put forward extremely arrogant pre-conditions, completely contrary to the principle of negotiating on an equal footing in order to achieve a satisfactory solution acceptable to both sides, a most elementary principle in international negotiations. With its serious attitude, the Vietnamese side has always desired that the sessions of the talks take place regularly and that the interval between any two sessions not be too long. But the Chinese side has adopted high-handed attitude. Particularly in the second round of the talks, it created one pretext after another to delay and prolong the intervals between sessions of the talks. The Chinese side unilaterally concluded the first round and has now unilaterally put an end to the second round while there has not been any progress in the talks.

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After two rounds of talks, public opinion has more clearly understood the goodwill of the Vietnamese side which has always wanted to make the talks advance towards an early solution to the problems in the relations between Viet Nam and China, to restore the long-standing friendship between the two peoples and the normal relations between the two States. On the other hand, the Chinese side has come to the negotiating table not to solving the problems but to imposing its big-nation position on the Vietnamese side, using the talks to deceive public opinion and cover up its wicked designs.

III. THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE CONSISTENTLY
PURSUE A POLICY OF SETTLING ALL THE PROBLEMS IN
THE RELATIONS BETWEEN VIET NAM AND CHINA THROUGH
NEGOTIATIONS

The fact that the Chinese side has further obstructed and sabotaged the talks between the two countries is closely linked with its increased collusion with the U.S. imperialists and other imperialist and reactionary forces to aggravate world tension and step up the arms race, to interfere in and, undermine the independence and sovereignty of other nations and to threaten peace and security of other countries the world over. But faced with the strength of Viet Nam's just position and that of the revolutionary movements and peace-and justice-loving peoples throughout the world, all perfidious schemes and criminal activities of the Beijing authorities against the Vietnamese people, the revolutionary movements and world peace will certainly be completely defeated.

The Government and people of Viet Nam persistently pursue a policy of settling all the problems in the relations between the two countries through negotiations and wish to continue and ensure the progress of the Viet Nam - China talks. In this spirit, as stated in the statement and note of the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on March 8, 1980, the Vietnamese side is of the view that the third round of talks may begin in March or April 1980. However, if the Chinese side is not ready, the Vietnamese side proposes that the third round of talks takes place on July 15, 1980 in Ha Noi.

The above-stated correct position and serious attitude of the Vietnamese side is certain to enjoy the widespread sympathy and support of peace-and justice-loving public opinion the world over. The stalemate in the Viet Nam - China talks and the delay in an early restoration of normal relations between Viet Nam and China are totally due to the Chinese side.

Ha Noi, March 20, 1980.
